WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(b) a variant of a mature form of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the said variant is 96% identical to the mature form of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(c) an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(d) a variant of an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant is 96% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(e) a nucleic acid fragment encoding at least a portion of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a variant of said polypeptide, wherein the said variant is 96% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or its mature form;

(f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

2. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of a naturally-occurring allelic nucleic acid variant.

3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a naturally-occurring polypeptide variant.

4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule differs by a single nucleotide from a nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4.

5. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4;

(b) a nucleotide sequence differing by one or more nucleotides from a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides differ from said nucleotide sequence;

(c) a nucleic acid fragment of (a); and

(d) a nucleic acid fragment of (b).

6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(a) a first nucleotide sequence comprising a coding sequence differing by one or more nucleotide sequences from a coding sequence encoding said amino acid sequence, provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides in the coding sequence in said first nucleotide sequence differ from said coding sequence;

(b) an isolated second polynucleotide that is a complement of the first polynucleotide; and

(c) a nucleic acid fragment of (a) or (b).

8. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.

9. The vector of claim 8, further comprising a promoter operably-linked to said nucleic acid molecule.

10. A method of treating or preventing a NOV-associated disorder, said method comprising administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired the nucleic acid of claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat or prevent said NOV-associated disorder in said subject.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said subject is a human.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

13. A kit comprising in one or more containers, the pharmaceutical composition of claim 12.

14. The use of a therapeutic in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a syndrome associated with a human disease, the disease selected from a NOV-associated disorder, wherein said therapeutic the NOV nucleic acid of claim 1.